

Message Text

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65

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01

INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 SP-02

CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 INT-05 DOTE-00 /067 W

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R 211406Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8367

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

UNCLAS BLANTYRE 1406

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, ELTN, EWWT, MI, MZ, ZA

SUBJECT: MALAWI TRANSPORTATION LINK DEVELOPMENTS

1. DIFFICULTIES WITHIN MALAWI TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM WILL FURTHER COMPLICATE ZAMBIAN EFFORT TO SEND AND RECEIVE MORE THROUGH MALAWI ROUTES. MALAWI RAILWAYS (MR) ADMITS ONLY 10 TO 12 LOCOMOTIVES OPERATIVE AT ANY ONE TIME DUE TO MECHANICAL PROBLEM . INVENTORY IS 20 PLUS. LOCAL FORWARDING AGENT SAYS AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED FOR ZAMBIA TO PUT TWO LOCOMOTIVES INTO MALAWI SYSTEM AND FOR MOZAMBIQUE TO PUT IN ONE IN ORDER TO REMEDY ENGINE SHORTAGE.

2. FIRE HAS COMPLETELY DESTROYED WAREHOUSE AND HOLDING FACILITIES AT SALIMA INCLUDING EST 10,000 TONS OF ZAMBIAN FERTILIZER AND CHEMICALS AWAITING PICKUP AT TIME WHEN GREATLY EXPANDED FACILITIES NEEDED. REPLACEMENT OF 40 LB RAIL ON BALAKA-SALIMA ROUTE WITH 90 LB RAIL TO BE FINISHED EARLY 1976 WHICH WILL ALLOW MOVEMENT OF HEAVIER LOADS NOW PICKED UP BY ZAMBIAN TRUCKS IN BLANTYRE OR BALAKA.

3. MR AND CFM HAVE AGREED TO MOVE 20,000 TONS MORE ZAMBIA COPPER PER MONTH THROUGH MALAWI SYSTEM TO BEIRA (10,000 TONS PER MONTH NOW MOVING THROUGH NACALA) BUT GIVEN DIFFICULTIES ABOVE, THIS MAY UNCLASSIFIED

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BE OVER OPTIMISTIC. LATEST FIGURES HERE SHOW ZAMBIA IMPORT BACKLOG

AT BEIRA DOWN TO 30,000 TONS. SEVEN PILOTS NOW OPERATING AT BEIRA
ALLOWING SOME SUNDAY WORK.

4. RECENT VISITORS SAY NIGHT WORK HAS RESUMED AT NACALA. INSTALLATION

OF 20 NEW CRANES THERE NOW ESTIMATED TO TAKE ONE YEAR HOWEVER.
FORWARDING AGENTS HERE SAY GREATER EFFICIENCY AT BEIRA THAN NACALA
WILL MEAN MAJORITY MALAWI TEA EXPORTS (EST. 30,000 TONS) FLOW
THROUGH BEIRA BEGINNING DEC.
HOFFMAN

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